

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending and 1-13 are rejected.

Priority Documents

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging receipt of the priority documents.

35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aho US 6,531,196.

Examiner alleges Aho '196 teaches that it is known in the art to make and use composition comprising the claimed elements to coat a paper. Examiner further alleges that the applied reference does not specifically teach the imide component, however he states imides are well known in such compositions and are known to improve barrier properties. Thus, he further reasons the addition of the imide component would be obvious to anyone skilled in the art.

The Applicants respectfully believe the above rejection to be highly improper for several reasons. Not one of the required limitations of the coating is disclosed or suggested in Aho. The Examiner refers to the abstract of Aho as teaching the same elements for coating a paper. There is no mention of polyvinyl butyral, styrene maleic imide or ethylene acrylate in either the abstract or the entire disclosure of Aho.

The Applicants direct the Examiner to the disclosure in column 3, lines 1-17.

Polymers suitable for the polymer basis of a coat according to the invention for a board include styrene butadiene, styrene acrylate, acrylate or vinyl acetate polymers and copolymers, or blends of these. The polymer may be prepared by using a monomer blend containing as its principal components vinyl acetate and a (methyl, ethyl, propyl or butyl) ester of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid and/or lower alcohols, or by using a monomer blend containing as its principal components styrene and a (methyl, ethyl, propyl or butyl) ester of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid and/or lower alcohols or by using a monomer blend containing as its principal components a (methyl, ethyl, propyl or butyl) ester of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid and/or lower alcohols and/or a copolymer of these.

The claimed composition of the invention does not appear anywhere in the above. Only styrene butadiene is exemplified. As the Examiner is aware, an obvious rejection requires all elements of the claims be present. This is not the case. Thus there is in fact no basis for his rejection.

Furthermore, Examiner has stated that only the SMI component is missing but believes the incorporation of such a component to be obvious as it is known that imides improve barrier properties. This statement must be backed by fact not speculation.

Thus the rejection is completely improper and the Applicants believe the claims to be unobvious in light of the cited reference.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-13 is respectfully solicited in light of the remarks *supra*.

Since there are no other grounds of objection or rejection, passage of this application to issue with claims 1-13 is earnestly solicited.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, Applicants request that the examiner contact the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,



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